

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2. Figures 1 and 2 are amended as requested in the Official Action. No new matter is added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets: 2

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-19 are pending in the application, with Claims 20 and 21 cancelled and Claims 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19 amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action the specification was objected to, the drawings were objected to, Claims 12-19 were objected to, Claims 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Osterman (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,140), and Claims 13-15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osterman in view of Koeder (DE 3333410A1) and/or Jack (U.S. Patent No. 6,329,655).

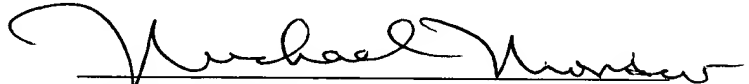
The specification and drawings are amended as requested in the Official Action. Claims 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19 are amended cosmetically to overcome the outstanding objections to the claims. No new matter is added.

Applicants traverse all the previously described rejections in view of Osterman in view of the fact that Osterman was filed on November 3, 1999 which is after Applicant's priority date of December 30, 1998. As noted in Applicant's filed claim to priority, the present application is a 371 application based on PCT/FR99/03301, which was filed on December 28, 1999. However, both the present application and PCT/FR99/03301 claims priority to French Patent Application 98-16648 filed on December 30, 1998. A copy of Applicant's originally filed claim to priority along with the original filing receipt is attached hereto. A supplemental Application Data Sheet (ADS) is also filed herewith.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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